

FB/ED/LM/CP

**DESCRIPTIVE ABSTRACT**

**Use of compounds which make it possible to modify the physicochemical properties of the skin and/or the mucous membranes as agents preventing or reducing the adhesion of microorganisms to the latter**

The present invention relates to the use, as active ingredient, in cosmetic compositions or for the preparation of pharmaceutical compositions, of an effective quantity of at least one compound free of carbohydrate units, modifying the physicochemical properties of the surface of the skin and/or of the mucous membranes, so as to prevent or reduce the adhesion of microorganisms to the skin and/or the mucous membranes, chosen so that the decimal logarithm of the mean number of viable bacteria adhering to the epidermis, after a test consisting in bringing the said epidermis into contact with the test compound for 2 hours at 37°C, is at least 0.3 less than that obtained by a test carried out with water under the same conditions.